

Etheldreda House,

Ely.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen - I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1960:-

1. STATISTICS: During 1960, the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council.

The Littleport St. John Ambulance continues to work under the agency agreement with the County Council. This vehicle, which serves the local area, and those areas adjoining when necessary, continues to be of the greatest value.

For yet another year the City & District is deeply indebted to those members of the Ely and Littleport St. John Ambulance Divisions who devote so much of their spare time to ambulance duties. How long they will be able to maintain this service is difficult to forecast, as the passing years take their toll of the old members and unfortunately, present day youth seems largely indifferent. According to my information, recruits to both Divisions are needed desperately.

(b) Nursing and Clinic arrangements: These are the same as for previous years. The City is indeed fortunate in having the assistance of the three splendid trained-Nurses, the value of whose services can never be accurately assessed.

(c) Hospitals:

- (i) Tower Hospital for Chronic Sick.
- (ii) St. John's Hospital for Infectious Diseases and long-stay cases.
- (iii) The Grange Maternity Home.

These three Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

3. WATER:

(a) The supply for Ely, including Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow and Chettisham is obtained from one well and three boreholes at the Council's Waterworks at Isleham; the new borehole and the pump having been brought into use.

3. WATER: (cont.)

The plant, including that for the chlorination of the water, has worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

So far as the pumping plant in the main Well is concerned, preliminary plans for renewal are going forward, and it is hoped work will start at a not too distant date.

It is with great satisfaction that I have to record that instructions have been given during the year to the Consulting Engineers with reference to additional water storage. I have had occasion for a number of years to refer to the urgent need of increased water storage for the District.

There were no major breakdowns in the pumping main during the year.

There was one power-cut at the Waterworks, lasting 12 hours. This was due to a thunder-storm, for which the Council held no responsibility!

- (b) (i) Four bacteriological examinations were made during the year by the Public Health Service Laboratory at Cambridge, and all proved satisfactory.
- (ii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iii) The quality and quantity of water has proved satisfactory. No contamination was discovered during the year and, therefore, no action in respect of this has been necessary.
- (iv) One bad sample from a farm Well was obtained during the year. This farm has now been connected to a main supply.
- (v) It is calculated that 4% of houses in the District are without a proper water supply; 1% are supplied by standpipe; and the remaining 95% of houses have a proper water supply.

4. SEWAGE:

- (i) Extensions: No extensions were made in 1960.
- (ii) Sewage Disposal Works:

After 24 years as the Council's Medical Officer, it is with the greatest delight that I record that during the month of March, the new Disposal Works were opened by the Chairman, Colonel J. G. A. Beckett, O.B.E., T.D., D.L. The Works, which fill a long-felt need for the City, are magnificent and the Council is very justly proud of them.

By the end of October, under the supervision of Mr. Black, the Works Superintendent, the effluent had attained the standard set up by the Great Ouse River Board.

Stage 1 of the Sewerage Scheme has been under consideration, and was put up to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the autumn.

4. SEWAGE: (cont.)

- (iii) There has been no change in the condition of the Prickwillow Disposal Works, which just keep going. Reconstruction gets closer every year.
- (iv) The Lynn Road-Downham Road watercourse has now been completely piped throughout.

5. HOUSING:

During the year the High Barns Estate was completed.

22 new houses were built during 1960, bringing the total of houses erected by the Council since the War to 543.

When the many difficulties, economic and otherwise, arising in the immediate post-war years, are recalled, I feel that the Council's efforts, culminating in such a number of new houses, are really wonderful.

Slum Clearance is not progressing as rapidly as could be wished. A definite allocation of new houses would enable the property in bad condition to be dealt with more systematically.

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|-----|---|-------------|
| (a) | Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation or in a condition prejudicial to health | approx 200. |
| (b) | Number of preliminary notices served | 23. |
| (c) | Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:- | |
| | (i) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works | NIL. |
| | (ii) The making of demolition orders | 4. |
| | (iii) The making of closing orders .. | NIL. |
| (d) | Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works | NIL. |
| (e) | Number of houses demolished | 13. |
| | Number of houses closed | 3. |
| (f) | Number of formal notices served under the Public Health Act 1936 | 1. |
| (g) | Inspection referring to Certificate of Disrepair | 1. |
| | Improvement Grants made | 30. |
| | (Discretionary = 6. Standard = 24.) | |
| | Local Authority Houses improved by Grants | 133. |
| | (Period 1.4.60.-31.3.61.) | |

6. SCHOOLS: I have no comments to make.

7. MILK: Since April 1959, the retail sale of raw milk has not been allowed in accordance with the demands of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order.

During the summer months some residents have been worried during the night hours, by the bulk deliveries of milk to a Dairy situated in a residential area.

Some of the general public still leave their milk bottles at pavement level. I wish that this unhealthy practice would stop entirely; also the few instances where milk bottles are used for purposes other than holding milk. A very disgusting practice.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a) 59 notifications of infectious diseases were received.

The total is made up as follows:-

Measles	46
Pneumonia	6
Whooping Cough	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	2
Sonne Dysentery	1
Food Poisoning	1
	<u>59</u>

There was a marked decrease in the incidence of notifiable infectious disease during the year, due to many fewer cases of measles and whooping cough, particularly the former. Those infectious diseases which did occur did not present any problems.

(b) During the year, no case of diphtheria occurred in the District. This is a very satisfactory and happy fact to record.

Immunization of a good number of children and young adults against Polio-myelitis has been carried out by private Practitioners and through the County Council Clinics.

Protection against these two very serious diseases, as well as Small Pox and Whooping Cough, can only be obtained by early immunization or vaccination, and I would urge every parent to make sure that these measures are carried out during the first year or two of life. As I have said before, I feel that negligence in this respect is really criminal.

(c) Tuberculosis:

2 new cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustment, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

	<u>Respiratory</u> :	<u>Non-Respiratory</u> :
Males	25	-
Females	16	2

Compared with 1959, the total figures show a decrease of 6 cases.

9. FOOD:

(a) Premises:

- (i) 11 premises are registered for the preparation of Sausages and Preserved Food.
- (ii) 38 premises are registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream. There is no ice cream manufactured for sale in the area.
- (iii) There is one private slaughter house in the District. Under the Slaughter House Act representations have been made to the responsible Minister, who has accepted the report on the present and future Slaughter House requirements of the District.

Extensive constructional alterations to the Slaughter House have been carried out, and certain final items are in the course of completion.

The long-standing policy of the Council that meat inspection is carried out by a local Veterinary Surgeon has been continued.

Number of animals slaughtered = 5,370.

Number of carcasses inspected = 5,370.

- (iv) The following is a list of food handling premises in the area:-

Butchers	11
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars ...	8
Bakers and Confectioners	4
Grocers	12
Greengrocers	11
Licensed Premises	41
Sweets and Tobacco	10
Wet and Fried Fish	5
Wholesale Warehouse	1
School Kitchens	4
General Stores	17
Ice Cream	2
Brewery	1

(b) Food Hygiene:

The position so far as food hygiene is concerned remains much the same as for the past year or so. To ensure that a standard of hygiene is not only instituted but maintained to the standards set up by the Regulations, requires repeated visits by the Council's Officers. One or two visits a year to each establishment is quite inadequate. Unfortunately, with the present constitution of the Public Health Department, repeated visits by the Public Health Inspector are impossible, unless, of course, other work is shelved. This problem is really one of man-power and time available.

Some employers and their employees are to be congratulated on the excellence of their establishments, and, as I have said before, they have nothing to fear.

There are, however, some employers who deserve prosecution, as despite visits, explanations and assistance offered, these individuals seem to be devoid of any sense of responsibility to the community. Furthermore, it must be remembered that indifferent and dirty employers lead only to their employees being similar to them.

The Public Health Inspector and I are always willing to give assistance and advice whenever sought, and we would much rather do this, than to have to ask the Council to invoke the penalties contained in the Regulations.

The standard of food hygiene in many homes is deplorable, a fact to which I have referred in past years. I may say that I have numberless occasions of observing the actual state of affairs in many houses, as I carry out my normal duties.

Under the recent Public Health Act, compulsory provision of food stores in houses, has been made possible.

I would impress on the Education Authorities the advantages and the necessity of including some instruction in food hygiene in the school curriculum for older children.

I want to draw the Council's attention to the fact that during the year the Public Health Inspector gave a course of instruction in Food Hygiene to local members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. All those who attended the Course were successful in passing the examination held when the Course was completed.

(c) Unsound Food:

The following items of food were surrendered unfit for food and destroyed:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Weight</u>			
		<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Ham	15 tins	1	1	4	2
Shoulder	8 "	-	2	15	1
Jellied Veal	5 "	-	1	2	-
Tongue	3 "	-	-	18	-
Corned Beef	74 "	3	1	2	9
Corned Mutton	17 "	-	1	11	-
Luncheon Meat	12 "	-	-	18	1
Other Meat	78 "	1	-	12	14
Turkeys	2	-	-	14	8
Irish Poussins	36	-	1	26	-
Tinned Fruit	314 "	3	2	17	12
Tinned Vegetables	40 "	-	1	8	4
Tinned Fish	54 "	-	1	23	11
Tinned Soup	22 "	-	-	17	6
Tinned Tomatoes	96 "	1	-	1	3
Evaporated Milk	10 "	-	-	4	6
Evaporated Milk	22 "	33	Pints.		
Condensed Milk	2 "	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	Pints.		
Cream	3 "	-	-	-	12
Fruit Juice	21 "	-	-	21	-
Jam	2 "	-	-	4	4
Conserve	4 "	-	-	7	4

9. FOOD: (cont.)

<u>Article</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Weight</u>			
		<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Marmalade	4 tins. 1 jar.	-	-	7	-
Treacle	2 tins	-	-	3	-
Coffee	1 tin	-	-	-	2
Honey	1 jar	-	-	1	-
Meat Paste	1 "	-	-	-	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish Paste	1 "	-	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Peanut Butter	2 jars	-	-	2	-
Pickle	1 jar	-	-	-	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Onions	1 "	-	-	1	4
Horseradish	1 "	-	-	-	5
Rice	1 tin	-	-	-	15
Lard	6 pkts.	-	-	3	-
Sauce	1 bottle	-	-	-	9
Orange Squash	4 bottles	-	-	-	-
Steak & Kidney Pie	1 pie	-	-	1	-
Chocolate	50 bars	-	-	12	8
Cheeses		1	1	18	8
Camembert Cheese	2 cheeses	-	-	-	-
Animal Meat	6 tins	-	-	3	-

10. MISCELLANEOUS:

(i) Insect Pest Control:

Generally no outstanding problems have presented, although there have been an increasing number of complaints of wasp's nests received by the Public Health Department. We endeavour to give such assistance in this respect as is possible, but I must make it clear that wasps are not official pests. It is interesting to note that a marked increase of complaints about wasps have been received throughout the Country.

During the year the property, which had become verminous, of some old people, was dealt with; Bedding and clothing were steam disinfected, while other property was either fumigated, or, if too badly infested, destroyed.

(ii) Shops:

As many of these as possible have been inspected. Inspections have not been by any means comprehensive on account of scarcity of time.

(iii) Rodent Control:

The year has been a busy one for the Rodent Operator; 3,194 inspections and re-inspections, with 92 agricultural premises in addition, have been carried out. 402 properties were found to be infected, and 647 treatments and re-treatments were carried out. In addition 6 agricultural properties required 19 treatments and re-treatments. The latter figures for agricultural properties are low, but it must be remembered that the Rodent Operator receives only £12 per annum for travelling expenses.

I must point out finally, that all the figures for this year are not comparable with those for 1959, which covered only a nine month period.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: (cont.)

(iv) Smoke Abatement:

6 Prior approvals for installation of furnaces were given during the year. Also 1 prior application for grit arrestors was given where the consumption of fuel was greater than one ton per hour. There were a further 8 notifications of installations in addition to the above.

Complaints were received of black smoke from a Hospital chimney, it was not necessary to communicate with the Minister of Health about this, as the Hospital Management Committee concerned decided to replace the boiler in question.

During the year, circular letters were sent to Architects, Builders, Heating Engineers and others, informing them of the requirements regarding notification and prior approval under the Clean Air Act.

A more-or-less casual inspection of the City's great heritage, the Cathedral, will show the presence of a layer of black grime on the lower parts of this magnificent building. I feel that much, if not all of this, is due to the smoke coming from many chimneys over the years. Surely the preservation of such a heritage would justify the use of smokeless fuels in the City.

Diesel fumes continue to contaminate the streets of the City - unchecked and unheeded. I am happy to note that there is an increasing criticism in the national press of these foul stinking fumes.

(v) Moveable Dwellings:

In co-operation with the Air Ministry the local Airfield has been cleared of the itinerant caravan dwellers, who have been such a source of nuisance.

(vi) Factories:

There are 13 non-mechanical and 57 mechanical factories in the register.

(vii) Common Lodging Houses:

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the City.

(viii) Swimming Pool:

The Chlorination Plant is still working, but will need renewal in the next year or two.

(ix) Refuse Tip:

Again I have to report some improvement, but further measures are still being actively considered.

(x) Markets:

The practice of smoking by food handlers on Market Stalls continues, I much regret to report. This practice is, of course, contrary to Regulations and renders those concerned liable to prosecution.

No hot water supply has yet been made available in the Public Conveniences.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: (cont.)(xi) Paradise Sports Field:

After $2\frac{1}{2}$ years the problem of sanitation here has at last been resolved satisfactorily, after the serving of a formal notice on the occupiers.

11. PERSONAL:

The bare facts recorded in each of my Annual Reports give very little indication of the amount of detailed work carried out in the District. This year has been no exception, and the Public Health Inspector, Mr. John Bryan, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. has had a fully occupied twelve months. I am most grateful to him for his strenuous efforts to dispose of the back-log of work from 1959, and at the same time to develop and extend the Department's activities.

To the Surveyor & Water Engineer, Mr. J. V. G. Shilston, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E. etc., and his entire Staff, I give them also my thanks for their technical help and assistance so willingly and cheerfully given.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies & gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) K. S. MAURICE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Urban District Council.

6th September, 1961.

